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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MILNROW.

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# ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE


Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

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ROCHDALE :

"TIMES" PRESS, YORKSHIRE STREET.



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## SANITARY AND SEWERAGE COMMITTEE:

Councillor G. J. ASHWORTH, Chairman.

„ J. CROWTHER.

„ F. U. BEESBY.

„ T. YARKER  
(Chairman of the Council).

„ R. SCHOFIELD.

„ W. A. FIRTH, J.P.

„ S. B. MEADOWCROFT.




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## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

C. P. B. SPENCER, L.S.A.

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## SANITARY AND HOUSING INSPECTOR:

TOM WARRINGTON, A.R.San.I., Certified Meat Inspector.

## ANNUAL REPORTS, 1925.

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### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

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*To the Sanitary Committee of the  
Urban District Council of Milnrow.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my First Annual Report on the health of the Urban District of Milnrow.

The outstanding points of the Report are:

1. The inclusion in it, by the instructions of the Ministry of Health, of a survey of the health of the district during the past five years (1921-1925).
2. A very low, and steady decrease in the birth rate.

#### **AREA.**

The district lies on the western slope of the Pennine Range and measures 5,194 acres. The lower and western part occupies the greater part of the valley of the Beal, while the higher and eastern part is watered by the Picthorne Brook, on which are situated some half-dozen reservoirs belonging to the Oldham Corporation. The altitude varies from 500 feet in the west to about 1,000 feet in the east where there is much moorland. The geological formations are millstone grit and coal measures. The subsoil is chiefly clay, or shale, with some sand in the lower parts of the district.



## POPULATION.

The census of 1921 gave a total population of 8,386; the estimated population for 1925 was 8,498. The number of inhabited houses given by the census of 1921 was 2,303, and the number of families, or separate occupiers, 2,320. The rateable value of the district is £65,329. The sum represented by a penny rate, £272.

The population is an industrial one, occupied mainly with cotton spinning, the wool trade, the engineering trade, and coal mining, none of which has any peculiar influence on the public health.

## BIRTH RATE.

In 1925 the births registered in the district were 92—55 males, 37 females.

The birth rate for 1925 was	...	...	...	...	10.8
„ „ „ „ 1924 „	...	...	...	...	13.2
The mean birth rate of five years (1921–1925)					
was	...	...	...	...	14.4
The decrease on the previous year was	...	...			2.4
The decrease on five years' average was	...				3.6
The birth rate for England and Wales (1925)					
was	...	...	...	...	18.3

In 1925 the registered deaths exceeded the registered births by 40. Death is less easily controlled.

## DEATH RATE.

In 1925 the deaths registered in the district were 132—62 males, 70 females.

The death rate for 1925 was	...	...	...	...	15.5
„ „ „ „ 1924 „	...	...	...	...	13.9
The mean death rate of five years (1921–1925)					
was	...	...	...	...	15.3
The increase on the previous year was	...	...			1.6
The increase on the five years' average was...					0.2

During the year 9 people belonging to the district died outside it.

Four died in Birch Hill.

Three ,, Rochdale Infirmary.

One ,, High Crompton.

One ,, Hale.

The death rate for England and Wales (1925) was 12.2.

The causes of death were :

Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Arterio Sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Bronchitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Hemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Congenital Debility	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Accidents...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During 1925 the deaths of 10 infants under one year old were registered in the district; four of the deaths were due to premature birth.

The infantile mortality rate in 1925 was ... .. 108

„ „ „ „ 1924 „ „ .. 113

„ „ „ „ for five years 1921—

1925) was 101.8

The decrease on the previous year was... .. 5.0

The increase on the five years' average was... .. 6.2

The infantile mortality rate for England and

Wales in 1925 was ... .. 75.0



The infantile mortality rate is calculated on the number of births.

Malnutrition and convulsions caused two deaths, Bronchitis one, and Bronco-Pneumonia one.

The number of infantile deaths and the infantile mortality rate for 1925 are supplied by the Registrar-General.

The death returns for the district for 1925 show only 8 infantile deaths, which with 92 births, gives an infantile mortality rate of 86, against the Registrar-General's figure 108.

### ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The following were notified in 1925:

Diseases.	Cases.	Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	14	8	2
Pneumonia ... ..	13	0	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0
Erysipelas ... ..	4	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	0	5
Others forms of			
Tuberculosis	2	0	0

Totalling 40 cases and 16 deaths.

The epidemic death rate for 1925 was .23, for 1924 it was .57, and for the five years (1921-1925), it averaged .36.

During the five years under consideration, 9 cases of Diphtheria were notified, but none since 1923. The Scarlet Fever cases notified were 142, of which 109 fell in 1921 and 1922, and only six in 1923. In 1921 there was some evidence suggesting the attendance of a Carrier at one of the Schools. The cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis number 43, of which six were notified in 1923 and six in 1925; the non-Pulmonary were 14, of which only two were notified in 1925.

The figures for Tuberculosis show that in 1925 there was a decrease of 11 notifications on the previous year and a decrease of 5.4 on the average number of notifications during the five years (1921-1925).

Of Pneumonia there were 70 cases, of which 13 were notified in 1925, a year containing a very prevalent epidemic of Influenza of a type more severe than that in any of the other four years, and causing ten deaths, but not causing an increase in the notifications of Pneumonia.

The death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis  
in 1925 was ... .. .58

The death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis  
in 1924 was ... .. .34

The death rate for five years (1921-1925) averaged... .. .74

The increase on the previous year was ... .. .24

The decrease on the five years' average was ... .16

The case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum made a good recovery.

### SMOKE NUISANCE.

The importance of a clear atmosphere is widely known and well appreciated, but the knowledge is little acted on. Some of the sun's rays, very important to the well-being of human as well as vegetable life, cannot penetrate the sooty atmosphere of large industrial areas. Artificial sunlight is largely used in the treatment of some diseases. Obviously, the emission of any smoke, particularly black smoke, is detrimental to the health of the community.

**HOUSING.**

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) By private enterprise... ..	14
(b) As part of Municipal Housing Scheme ...	0

Number of houses in course of erection under Coun-

cil's Building Scheme ... ..	54
------------------------------	----

**UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.**

INSPECTION—

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	62
--	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ... ..	14
--	----

Have the particulars of these inspections been fully recorded as specified in the Regulations? Yes

(3) Number of dwelling-houses to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	None
---	------

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	4
--	---

**REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in

consequence of informal action by the Local

Authority or their Officers ... ..	4
------------------------------------	---

## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 28 OF THE HOUSING,  
TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACT, 1919.

- |     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which<br>Notices were served requiring repairs ... ..  | 0 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered<br>fit:—   |   |
|     | (a) By Owners ... ..   | 0 |
|     | (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners  | 0 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which<br>Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of<br>declaration by Owners of intention to close ... .. | 0 |

## B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which<br>Notices were served requiring defects to be<br>remedied ... .. | 3 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects<br>were remedied:—   |   |
|     | (a) By Owners... ..   | 3 |
|     | (b) By Local Authority in Default of Owners   | 0 |

C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 17 AND 18 OF THE  
HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACT, 1909 ... 0D.—NUMBER OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED VOLUNTARILY  
BY OWNERS OR CONVERTED TO WORKSHOPS, ETC. ... 1

I beg to thank Mr. Warrington and the other members  
of the staff for their kindness and help during the year.

Yours faithfully,

**C. P. B. SPENCER,**

Medical Officer of Health.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
SANITARY AND HOUSING INSPECTOR FOR 1925.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Sanitary Committee of the Urban  
District Council of Milnrow.*

GENTLEMEN,

I submit herewith my Twelfth Annual Report of the Sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1925. This year the Ministry of Health require a survey of the work carried out during the last five years—1921–1925.

The chief improvements during this period were conversion of the Pail Closets, abolition of Ashpits with the substitution of covered galvanised Ashbins and the extension of sewers and water mains.

The insufficiency of the water supply at Newhey was remedied at the end of 1925 by the new supply from the Blackstone Edge reservoir, but on several occasions complaints were received as to the muddy condition of the water. After repeated protests to the Rochdale Corporation, this nuisance has been remedied.

On the 6th June, 1921, Sections 39–43 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were adopted, and a resolution was passed by the Council to contribute the cost of w.c. cistern, flush-pipe and basin not exceeding £4. During 1921 six conversions were executed, 19 in 1922, 119 in 1923, 131 in 1924, and 112 in 1925, a total of 387 during the five years. At the end of 1920 there were 1,270 Pail Closets and 272 Fresh Water Closets in use; at the end of 1925 there



were 894 Pail Closets and 787 Fresh Water Closets. There are 78 Waste Water Closets; there has been no change in these since 1913.

During 191 four open and four covered Ashpits were abolished and 26 Ashbins substituted; in 1925 eleven open and 17 covered Ashpits were abolished and 72 Ashbins substituted. During the five years 43 open and 70 covered Ashpits were abolished and 248 Ashbins substituted. At the end of 1920 there were 170 Ashpits (open and covered) and 833 Ashbins in use; at the end of 1925 there were 45 open and 12 covered Ashpits and 1,174 Ashbins in use.

The Inspection of Meat and other Foods is a very important part of a Sanitary Inspector's multifarious duties. Disease in cattle is very much in evidence in the slaughterhouse. During 1925 the amount of beef condemned was 922 lbs., the amount of lungs, livers, kidneys and mesenteric fat was 185 lbs., a total in weight of 1,107 lbs. which was destroyed at the coke ovens. During the five years the total amount of meat condemned and destroyed was 2,144 lbs., and lungs, livers, etc., was 518 lbs. The bulk of the meat and organs was affected with tuberculosis. A carcass of a pig was moribund, having been partly suffocated in a railway truck. One pair of beasts' lungs was affected with the cyst *Echinococcus Veterinorum* and two beasts' livers with the parasite *Distomum Hepaticum*.

Under the New Tuberculosis Order, 1925, which is administered by the County Police Authorities, five cows were notified as suffering from Tuberculosis and slaughtered at the knacker's yard, and in each case the diagnosis was correct.

The efficient working of these Orders depend on the willing co-operation of the farmers, but a more efficient method would be the veterinary inspection of milk beasts in the shippens at intervals of about three months.

A County Sanitary Survey was made of the District in 1924 by Mr. R. Keeley, C.S.I., and the Report is receiving attention.

There were 210 informal notices sent and three Statutory notices served during the year.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Houses inspected during the year were 76; of these, 40 were examined owing to cases of infectious disease. Fourteen houses were inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, and 22 were ordinary inspections. Other inspections made are specified in Table A and nuisances abated are specified in Table B.

Seventeen smoke observations were made—three of one hour's duration and 14 of half-hour's duration. The cases of excessive black smoke are as follows:

	Black Smoke.	Moderate Smoke.	No Smoke.
No. 1 ...	14mins. 50secs. ...	14mins. 70secs. ...	None.
No. 2 ...	15mins. 0secs. ...	13mins. 0secs. ...	2mins.
No. 3 ...	7mins. 10secs. ...	22mins. 50secs. ...	None.

The time limit of six minutes in the hour for the emission of black smoke—a very generous limit—was reduced to two minutes in the half-hour in November of 1925, after a Conference of Representatives of Rochdale and the contiguous

Urban District Authorities to bring about uniformity of action as to the period of observation and the time limit for black smoke. On the 10th May, 1923, a Representative from the Ministry of Health (Mr. J. C. Dawes, Esq.) visited this district to inquire into the circumstances of the Smoke Nuisance and what steps were being taken to remedy it. On the 18th October, 1923, a series of Lectures on Engine and Boiler Management in relation to Smoke Prevention was arranged by the Branch of the Engineers' Union at Rochdale. All the Mill Owners were circularised drawing their attention to these Lectures and asking them to encourage their Engineers and Firemen to attend the course, most of whom went and maintained their attendance throughout the course. A keen interest was taken and many questions were asked after each Lecture and opinions freely given. I think there is a genuine desire on the part of both Engineers and Firemen to make the best of the plants they have to manage to reduce the emission of black smoke.

### **DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.**

There were 162 visits paid to the Farms. The shippons are periodically whitewashed and generally kept in a cleanly condition. A sample of milk was taken at one farm by the County Sanitary Inspector (Mr. R. Keeley) owing to a complaint of a dirty milk supply from a farmer in the Crompton Urban District, who stated that part of his supply came from this farmer in the Milnrow area. The result of the analysis proved the milk to be dirty. The farmer was asked for an explanation, and he said that owing to the absence of his daughter, who looked after the

dairy, the milk was never passed through the sieve. It was pointed out to him that the dirt should not be there to be sieved; he was warned that legal proceedings would be taken if it occurred again.

### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Eighty-two visits were paid to Bakehouses, which were in a cleanly condition at the time of inspection. There are 28 Bakehouses on the Register.

There were 179 visits paid to Factories and Workshops, and there was no cause for complaint.

There were no complaints from H.M. Inspector of Factories.

The following is a list of Factories and Workshops:

Cotton Mills	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Woollen Mills	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Textile Print Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fellmongering	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Asbestos Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Iron Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wheelwrights	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tinsmiths...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Boot and Shoe and Clog Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Motor Engineer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Joiners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5



## INFECTION AND DISINFECTION.

Forty cases of Infectious Disease were notified, and inquiries and inspections were made as to the sanitary condition of the houses at which they occurred. The percentage of removals to the Isolation Hospital was as follows:

Scarlet Fever     ...    ...    ...    ...    57%

Disinfection was carried out at 15 houses, with a total of 54 rooms. Disinfection is carried out by using formaldehyde vapour lamps.

## SCAVENGING.

The Sanitary Conveniences at the end of the year were as follows:

	1925.	1920.
Fresh Water Closets    ...    ...    787    .....	787	272
Waste Water Closets    ...    ...    78    .....	78	78
Pail Closets    ...    ...    ...    894    .....	894	1270
Ashpits (open)...    ...    ...    45    .....	45	170
Ashpits (covered)    ...    ...    12    .....	12	
Privy Middens    ...    ...    ...    85    .....	85	90
Closets attached to Middens...    89    .....	89	98
Ashbins    ...    ...    ...    ...    1174    .....	1174	866

The changes that occurred in the Sanitary Conveniences are as follows:

Pail Closets converted into Fresh Water Closets ...	112
Additional Fresh Water Closets provided ...    ...    ...	16
New Fresh Water Closets    ...    ...    ...    ...    ...	12



Open Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Covered Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Ashbins in lieu of Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Additional Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACTS.

### HOUSES INSPECTED.

Situation.	Houses.	Chief Defects.
236-248, Rochdale Road .	7	Insufficient Closet accommodation.
7, 16, 17, 18, East Street	4	Defective Roofs and Eaves Gutters.
3, 4, Ingham Fields ... ..	2	„ „ „
1, West Street ... ..	1	„ „ „
<hr/>		
14		

Cases of overcrowding cannot be dealt with owing to suitable houses being difficult to obtain, and where Council houses are available the rent is very often more than they can afford. At the end of the year 54 houses were in course of erection.

I thank you for your generous support in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

**TOM WARRINGTON,**

Sanitary and Housing Inspector.

**TABLE A.**

## INSPECTIONS.

Investigations <i>re</i> Infectious Diseases (Notifiable) ... ..	40
Number of Houses Inspected (Ordinary) ... ..	22
Re-Inspections, Calls, etc. ... ..	141
Inspection of Bakehouses ... ..	82
„ Factories and Workshops ... ..	179
„ Cowhouses ... ..	162
„ Slaughter-houses ... ..	404
Outdoor Premises Inspected ... ..	104
Smoke Observations ... ..	17
Drains Inspected ... ..	153
Miscellaneous ... ..	21
<hr/>	
Total ... ..	1,325

## TABLE B.

## NUISANCES ABATED.

Houses Cleansed ... ..	1
Back-to-Back Houses made into Through ... ..	2
Drains Blocked ... ..	14
Drains Untrapped ... ..	9
Drains Re-Constructed ... ..	19
New Drains Constructed ... ..	136
New Connections to Sewer ... ..	3
Defective Flush-Pipe Joints to W.C. Basin ... ..	5
Inspection Chambers Built... ..	4
Trapped Gullies Fixed ... ..	46
Closet Pails Renewed ... ..	62
Privies Converted to Pail Closets ... ..	1
Additional Fresh-Water Closets ... ..	16
Pail Closets Converted to Fresh Water Closets ... ..	112
Open Ashpits Abolished ... ..	11
Covered Ashpits Abolished ... ..	17
Ashbins Provided in lieu of Ashpits Abolished ... ..	72
Additional Ashbins Provided ... ..	3
Dilapidated Ashbins Renewed ... ..	101
Broken R.W. Pipes ... ..	6
R.W. Pipes Disconnected from the Drain ... ..	9
Roofs Repaired ... ..	7
Damp Walls Remedied ... ..	1
Miscellaneous ... ..	6
<hr/>	
Total ... ..	663

# URBAN DISTRICT OF MILNROW.

## 1. GENERAL STATISTICS. YEAR 1925.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,194
Population (1925) (Estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.498
,, (1921) (Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,386

## 2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1925.

						Total.	Male.	Female.
Births	{	Legitimate...	...	...	...	89	54	35
		Illegitimate	...	...	...	3	1	2
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	132	62	70
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child- birth						From Sepsis	...	0
						From other causes	...	0

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—  
Total 10—Legitimate 10, Illegitimate none.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

## RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

					Birth rate.		Death rate.		Phthisis Death rate.		Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1,000 births.
1925	...	...	...	...	10.8	...	15.5	...	0.58	...	108
1924	...	...	...	...	13.2	...	13.9	...	0.34	...	113
Mean of 10 years, 1915											
	to 1924...	...	...	...	15.25	...	15.6	...	0.92	...	101
Increase or decrease in											
1925 on :											
Previous year	...	—2.4	...	+	1.6	...	+	0.24	...	—	5
Ten years' average		—4.45...		—	0.1	...	—	0.34	...	+	7





